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METHODS WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER

Letter dated 7 March 1952 transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated 26 January 1952 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and of the attached resolution, "Methods which might be used to maintain and strengthen international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter."

In reply to the above letter the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to make the following statement:

The entire procedure followed in voting and adopting the resolution and the recommendations contained in it by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its plenary meeting of 12 January 1952, under strong United States pressure, constitutes a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a dangerous step towards the further aggravation of international relations.

Under the clear and incontrovertible provisions of the United Nations Charter the important task of maintaining international peace and security falls to the Security Council. It alone has the right and authority, subject to strict observance of the principle of unanimity among its five permanent members, the United Kingdom, France, the USSR, China and the United States -- a principle set forth in the Charter -- to make a valid decision that the actions of a State are aggressive and to impose on such a State military, economic or other sanctions. No other organ of the United Nations, not even the

General Assembly, is vested with such rights. Articles 46 and 47 of the Charter provide for a Military Staff Committee which is under the direct authority of the Security Council and assumes responsibility for the direction of the armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council.

The peoples, including the peace-loving Bulgarian people who have devoted all their strength to constructive, peaceful labour, expected the United Nations to live up to the hope placed in it that it would maintain the freedom and national independence of each country, as well as world peace. The peoples expected the United Nations to adopt on all questions, and in particular on the question of the establishment and setting up of the collective security system, which is of vital importance to all the peoples of the world only such decisions as would contribute to the strengthening of the basic principles of the Charter and thus to the survival of the United Nations.

It is regrettable that the United Nations resolution of 12 January 1952 did not justify these hopes. Under the guise of collective measures its aim is to weaken the principal organ of the United Nations, the Security Council; to deprive it, as well as the Military Staff Committee placed under its authority, of the powers which under the Charter rest with them alone; and to transfer these rights and powers to the General Assembly, where the imperialistic forces in the United States are able to impose decisions dictated by their selfish interests.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers the resolution to be an expression of the desire of aggressive circles in the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries to unite and arm the forces of reaction throughout the world and use them for the purpose of spreading the war in Asia and transforming it into a new world war.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that this resolution, which constitutes an open attack upon the principle of unanimity in the Security Council and a concealed revision of the United Nations Charter jeopardizing the very existence of the United Nations, was adopted illegally by the General Assembly under pressure by the United States and the aggressive bloc formed in the United Nations, and for this reason declines to transmit it to its Government.

/The Ministry

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria would be obliged if the Secretariat of the United Nations would bring the contents of this letter to the notice of the Member States of the United Nations.

Sofia, 7 March 1952

(signed) Dr. M. NEITCHEV
The Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

22/4 p.m.